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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 35-38 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 18-34 have been withdrawn in view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement. Applicant affirms the election made without traverse in a telephone conversation on January 8, 2003 to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-17. Applicant withdraws claims 18-34 without prejudice and retains the right to present claims 18-34 in a divisional or continuation application.

In the Office action mailed January 16, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,764,779). Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakai (Japan Patent 62-61747). Claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshinaka et al. (Japan Patent 9-59839). Claims 6, 8, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 9 such that the core yarn comprises a metallic wire, and the cover yarn comprises a fluid soluble strand selected from the group consisting of co-nylon and polyactic acid. None of the cited prior art discloses a composite yarn comprising a metallic wire core and a cover yarn comprising co-nylon or polyactic acid. Nor does any of the cited prior art disclose an intermediate fabric product intended for subsequent processing comprising a fabric comprised of such a composite yarn.

Sato et al. discloses a composite yarn comprising a core yarn composed of at least one kind of fiber selected from organic and inorganic fibers such as linen, cotton,

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polyamide, polyester, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl alcohol, polyolefin, cellulose diacetate, cellulose triacetate, viacose rayon, cupra, glass, and carbon fibers, and a covering layer composed of a ribbon-shaped metal electroconductive metal fiber. Sakai discloses a spiral electric wire comprising a core material composed of a water-soluble fiber, and a conductive wire wound around the core material. Yoshinaka discloses a twisted yarn of a multilayered structure obtained by forming a fiber layer of a core layer, an interlayer and an outermost layer. The core layer or the interlayer comprises water-soluble polyvinyl alcoholic fibers.

None of the above-cited references disclose the composite yarn of amended claim 1 or the intermediate fabric product of amended claim 9. As such, claims 1 and 9 are in a condition for allowance. All remaining claims depend on claims 1 or 9, and therefore are also in a condition for allowance.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that issues remain for discussion in this case, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Date: March 25, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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